

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently pending. The Examiner has graciously allowed Claims 1-19 and 28-32 which the Applicants respectfully appreciate. Nonetheless, the Examiner has maintained the following rejections:

- I. Claims 20, 22-27 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,472,219 to Nieuwenhuis *et al.* (Nieuwenhuis).
- II. Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nieuwenhuis.

For the reasons provided in the previous Office Action response, the Applicants disagree with these rejections. Nonetheless, without acquiescing to the Examiner's argument but to further the prosecution, and hereby expressly reserving the right to prosecute the original (or similar) claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 20-27 and 33. These cancellations are made not to acquiesce to the Examiner's argument but only to further the Applicants' business interests, better define one embodiment and expedite the prosecution of this application.

I. The Claims Are Novel

The Examiner has rejected Claims 20, 22-27 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,472,219 to Nieuwenhuis *et al.* (Nieuwenhuis). The Applicants submit that this rejection is moot due to the above claim cancellations made for other reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the pending rejection.

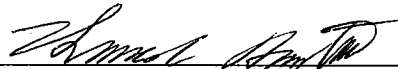
II. The Claims Are Nonobvious

The Examiner has rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nieuwenhuis. The Applicants submit that this rejection is moot due to the above claim cancellations made for other reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the pending rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the amendments and arguments set forth above traverse the Examiner's rejections and therefore request that these grounds for rejection be withdrawn. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a Notice Of Allowance for Claims 1-19 and 28-32 within the statutory period of this Non-Final Office Action. However, should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect.

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